

"The whole number of patients admitted into the hospital is 510; of this number about one half have been supported by themselves, or their friends; the other half is made up of state and town paupers. That this charity of the State may be enjoyed by all, it is desirable that the expenses for support should not be increased, but that indigent persons, not paupers, should have the benefit at even a less charge than \$2,50. With this object in view, the Committee suggest the propriety of paying the salaries of the officers of the hospital from the treasury of the Commonwealth, thus avoiding the necessity of annually voting a sum for contingencies, to supply the deficiency, which in the present arrangement must necessarily be done.

"The Committee would respectfully ask the attention of the Legislature, to the communication of His Excellency the Governor, on the subject of this interesting institution; also, to the report of the "commissioners for enlarging the State Lunatic Hospital," for a satisfactory exposition of the causes and circumstances which have rendered it necessary that an additional appropriation be made, to enable them to complete the object designed by their commission."

"The sum of \$10,000 is estimated by the commissioners, as sufficient for the completion of the building, and furnishing it ready for occupancy; and from its present state of forwardness, it is confidently expected that it will be prepared for the reception of patients by the time fixed in the original contract, the 15th of June, 1837.

"The number of patients which can then be well accommodated is from 230 to 250, and in the successful progress of improvement fondly anticipated, and by adopting a judicious system of classification, a still greater number may participate in the enjoyment of its privileges and blessings. Thus the bounty of the government will be extended, and be productive of an amount of good far exceeding all pecuniary considerations.

H. H. CHILDS, Chairman."

MEDICAL PREMIUM.

THE New York State Medical Society, at a recent meeting, passed the resolution that one hundred dollars be offered for the best dissertation on the following subject:—

"Diseases of the Spine, their causes, symptoms, and best mode of treatment.

The following gentlemen were appointed the committee on Prize Questions, for the ensuing year.

Drs. John B. Beck, James R. Manly, Richard Pennell, John C. Cheeseman, Thomas Downing.

The Dissertations to be sent to the committee before the first day of January, 1838.

P. VAN O'LINDA, Secretary.

No. 26 [Snaps]
Poisoning with Yew Berries.—A fatal case of poisoning with the berries or seeds of the yew (*Taxus baccata*), is related in the London Lancet. Of five children who had been seen under a yew tree, the youngest, aged three a half years, was soon after seized with vomiting, throwing up some of the yew berries. Before medical assistance could arrive, the child had been convulsed and died. The other children were slightly affected, and

recovered. On examining the dead body, several purple spots were found externally on the breast, abdomen, arms, legs and thighs; the pupils contracted; the intestines vascular. Within the stomach, were a very large quantity of mucus, and some masticated berries. On washing the stomach, several extensive red patches were observed, with the mucous membrane covering them so much softened as to be detached with the slightest friction. The lungs of a very florid red anteriorly, but dark posteriorly, where the blood had gravitated. The veins and sinuses of the brain and its meninges, were full of a dark-colored blood, and more vascular than natural. It has been thought by many medical men that these berries were harmless; and perhaps where the seeds have been eaten unmasticated they have proved so.

Health of New Haven, Ct.—A correspondent writes—"Our town has been unusually sickly during the last year. The number of deaths was about one hundred more than it has ever been before. This is attributable, in part, to the rapidly increasing population of the town; in part, to the unusual variety of diseases which have succeeded each other, particularly among children—influenza, hooping cough, measles, dysentery, mumps, and scarlet fever, having been uncommonly prevalent during the year; and in part to the unusual prevalence of quackery, which has caused many cases of disease to be severe, and even fatal, which to all appearance would otherwise have been mild. This was particularly the fact in regard to the dysentery of last fall, which was in most cases very mild, unless aggravated, in the commencement of the cases, by the Hygiean or Brandeth's pills, 'Dysentery Cordial' or some other nostrum."

Employment necessary for Lunatics.—At Saragossa in Spain, there is an asylum for the insane of all countries. The patients are divided early in the morning, into parties, some of which perform the menial offices of the house; others repair to shops belonging to their respective trades; the majority are distributed, under the superintendence of their guards, through a large inclosure, where they are occupied in the works belonging to gardening and agriculture. Uniform experience is said to prove the efficacy of these labors in reinstating reason in its seat. It is added, that the nobles who live in the same asylum, but in a state of idleness suitable to their rank, retain their lunacy and their privilege together; whilst their inferiors are restored to themselves and to society. This fact is so striking, explains so thoroughly the moral treatment of insanity, and illustrates so clearly what ought to be the plan adopted in all systems of education, that I make the statement without comment—since no argument can add to its weight, and no sophistry detract from its utility.

Oil of Turpentine in Tetanus.—A young lady, aged seventeen, who lives about three miles from Darlington, wounded her hand with a rusty nail, in a very slight way, so as not to draw blood. In a few days her hand and arm became stiff, and very painful on motion, as well as the jaws and the muscles of the neck and throat. She was chiefly attended by my partner, Dr. Macfarlan, who had not joined me when a former case was under my care; but as soon as I related the effect to him, he lost no

time in administering the turpentine, and after a hard struggle there was every reason to believe that it was made the means of restoring her to health. To be sure, the wound was laid open more than once, and many topical applications were used, such as poultices, fomentations, &c., but as these measures were never before known to be successful in traumatic tetanus, we may fairly give to this medicine the credit of the cure. It would give me much pleasure to hear that some of the hospital surgeons had made a trial of it.

About twenty drops in a little mint-water would be a proper dose for an adult.—*London Lancet*.

Cholera.—Recent advices from Europe announce the appearance of this scourge of man in places where it was thought to have expended its destructive power long ago. After all that has been said of the easy management of Asiatic cholera, it is very certain that the profession know no more about it, in reality, than when the development of this modern pestilence was first promulgated.

Medical Miscellany.—The cost of supporting the State Lunatic Hospital one year—from Dec. 1, 1835, to Dec. 1, 1836—was \$23,272 61.—The Thomsonians have become so numerous, that they begin to be jealous of each other.—Brandeth's expositor died in embryo.—Scarlet fever has been prevalent at Woonsocket Falls, R. I.—Two hundred dollars were paid into the treasury of Williams College, the past year, for the president's signature to medical diplomas.—Dr. Cobb, of Cincinnati, will lecture at Brunswick in a few weeks.—The patients seeking relief at the Boston Eye and Ear Infirmary are numerous. The operating day is Monday, between the hours of twelve and one.—Nothing could be more absurd than the idea lately advanced that carpets are productive of pulmonary diseases: more people suffer for the want of them than by the use of them.—Dr. Woodward thinks that but a few are so completely insane as to be beyond the reach of *moral instruction*—"and perhaps I may add, *moral responsibility*."—Dr. Buller, of Hamburg, uses, it is said, a new instrument for amputating limbs, which takes off a leg in one second—probably he employs a guillotine.—Dr. Poyen is about commencing another course of lectures at Chauncy Hall.—Dr. Jackson, who is engaged in the geological survey of Maine, will soon begin his lectures, it is said, at Augusta, on geology.—An aged lady was suffocated by the fumes of charcoal, at Gorham, a few days since.—The number of marriages in the city of Havana, in 1836, were 400; births, 4007, and deaths 4778.—Since 1804, 317,566 persons have been vaccinated in the Island of Cuba.—There were thirty deaths last week in New York, of Scarlet fever.—The last number of the Lynn Mirror contains some excellent popular remarks on the steam and lobelia system.—The whole number of deaths in Lowell the last year, was 276. Rate of mortality, 1 in 63.—The influenza was destroying a great number of lives in England at the latest dates.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending March 4, 30. Males, 11—females, 19.

Consumption, 3—hooping cough, 1—inflammation on the brain, 1—worms, 1—rheumatic, 1—drowned, 1—inflammation lungs, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—suicide, 1—croup, 3—convulsions, 1—infantile, 5—lung fever, 3—intemperance, 1—stoppage in bowels, 1—disease of the heart, 2—cholera infantum, 1—scarlet fever, 1—old age, 1—stillborn, 5.

COPLAND'S DICTIONARY, PART III.

A DICTIONARY of Practical Medicine; comprising General Pathology—the Nature and Treatment of Diseases, Morbid Structures, and the disorders especially incidental to climate, to the sex, and to the different epochs of life—with numerous prescriptions for the medicines recommended, a classification of diseases, according to pathological principles, a copious Bibliography, with references, and an Appendix of approved Formulae; the whole forming a library of Pathology and Practical Medicine, and a digest of Medical Literature. By JAMES COPLAND, M.D., Consulting Physician to Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital; Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary for Diseases of Children; Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Member of the Medical and Chirurgical Societies of London and Berlin, &c. This day published by W. D. TICKNOR, corner of Washington and School streets.

March 8

A BARGAIN.

A PHYSICIAN in the County of Kennebeck (Maine), wishing to leave the State, would dispose of his situation on the most reasonable terms. It is an eligible stand for business, and offers a rare opportunity for any young gentleman wishing to engage in the practice of medicine. For further information, inquire at this office—if by letter, post paid.

Feb. 1.

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VERMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE, AT WOODSTOCK, VT.

CONNECTED WITH MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

(Incorporated by the Legislature of Vermont, October, 1835, with the power of conferring degrees.

THE Annual Course of Lectures at this Institution will commence on the second Thursday of March next, and continue thirteen weeks.

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|------------------------|---------|---|
| H. H. CHILDS, M.D. | - - - - | Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics. |
| GILMAN KIMBALL, M.D. | - - - - | Physiology and Surgery. |
| DAVID PALMER, M.D. | - - - - | Chemistry and Materia Medica. |
| ROBERT WATTS, JR. M.D. | - - - - | Anatomy. |
| NORMAN WILLIAMS, A.M. | - - - - | Medical Jurisprudence. |
| D. C. PERRY, M.D. | - - - - | Demonstrations in Anatomy. |

The usual number of Lectures will be five, daily—besides the Demonstrations in Anatomy, and occasional evening examinations.

Considerable additions are now making to the Chemical apparatus; and opportunities will be furnished to students for practical anatomy, arrangements for that purpose having been made last year in the city of New York.

No subject for dissection will be received from any person, or on any terms.

Fees for the course, \$45. Graduation, \$18. For those who have attended two courses, but do not graduate, \$10. All the above expenses to be paid in advance, or secured by note, with a satisfactory endorser, to David Pierce, Esq., Treasurer of the Institution. Board is usually furnished at \$2 per week, including room, wood, lights, and washing.

Students are requested to come provided with two or more standard works on each of the above designated branches of study.

Degrees will be conferred at the close of the lecture term.

Examinations will be conducted by the Medical Faculty, in presence of a delegation from the College, and a committee appointed by the Justices of the Supreme Court, pursuant to the provisions of the act of incorporation.—Requisites to an examination are, that the student produce satisfactory testimonials of moral character, and of his having studied three years with a regular practitioner; that he shall have attended two courses of public Lectures, one of which must have been at this institution; and that he shall have attained the age of 21 years. For particulars relating to private instruction, students are referred to the annual catalogues of the School.

By order of the Trustees,

NORMAN WILLIAMS, Secretary.

NOTE.—The Annual Course of Lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institution commences the last Thursday of August, at Pittsfield, Mass., and continues thirteen weeks.—Fees for the Course, \$50.

Feb. 14—tM9

PROLAPSUS UTERI CURED BY EXTERNAL APPLICATION.

DR. A. G. HULL'S UTERO-ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER is offered to those afflicted with *Prolapsus Uteri*, and other diseases depending upon relaxation of the abdominal muscles, as an instrument in every way calculated for relief and permanent restoration to health. When this instrument is carefully and properly fitted to the form of the patient, it invariably affords the most immediate immunity, from the distressing "dragging and bearing down" sensations which accompany nearly all visceral displacements of the abdomen, and its skillful application is always followed by an early confession of radical relief from the patient herself. The Supporter is of simple construction, and can be applied by the patient without further aid. Within the last two years 700 of the Utero-Abdominal Supporters have been applied with the most happy results.

The very great success which this instrument has met, warrants the assertion, that its examination by the Physician will induce him to discard the disgusting pessary hitherto in use. It is gratifying to state, that it has met the decided approbation of every member of the Medical Faculty who has applied it, as well as every patient who has worn it.

The Subscribers having been appointed agents for the sale of the above instruments, all orders addressed to them will be promptly attended to. Price, \$10.

LOWE & REED, Boston; DAVID KIMBALL, Portsmouth, N. H.; JOSHUA DURGIN, Portland, Me.; JOSEPH BALCH, Jr. Providence, R. I.; ELISHA EDWARDS, Springfield, Mass.; N. S. WORDEN, Bridgeport, Conn.

Oct. 5—6m

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR. at 181 Washington Street, corner of Franklin Street, to whom all communications must be addressed, *post-paid*. It is also published in Monthly Parts, each Part containing the weekly numbers of the preceding month, stitched in a cover. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D. Editor.—Price \$2.00 a year in advance. \$3.50 after three months, and \$4.00 if not paid within the year.—Agents: every seventh copy *gratis*.—Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance, or satisfactory reference.—Postage the same as for a newspaper.